

1971

## Book Reviews

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significance. "Bourgeois" *sociology* appears to have been initially introduced to Soviet scholars largely by way of violent attacks on it as the tool of exploiting governments and corporations. The same may prove to be true of criminology. While Soviet writers are still critical of Western sociology, the Soviet sociological enterprise has grown by leaps and bounds, and Soviet sociologists have achieved a much greater familiarity with Western theory and research methods than they showed only a few years ago. This suggests the possibility that the writings on "bourgeois" criminology reviewed here are actually a way of acquainting Soviet scholars and researchers with the theories and research of Western criminologists. In the last ten years, criminology has emerged once again as a respectable discipline in the USSR, and considerable efforts are being exerted to develop the field. It may well be that such critical discussions are a way of broadening the perspectives of Soviet criminologists in order to increase the effectiveness (and value for policy-making) of their

researches. However, the proximity of the subject matter of criminology to sensitive aspects of Soviet life places it in a position which apparently requires that "bourgeois" theories always be discussed critically, when discussed at all. (It might also be the case that such critical discussions are seen as a way of *delaying* the acceptance of Western approaches in Soviet criminology, in accord with the desires of the political elite to minimize the impact of heterodox ideas, while still hoping for the development of criminology as a more useful policy science over the long term.)

Criminology, which flourished in the USSR in the 1920's, is currently re-emerging after a long period of suppression under Stalin, during which contact with Western work in the area was virtually lost. Thus, while political factors, especially the refusal to countenance "coexistence of ideologies," will probably force Soviet writers to reject "bourgeois" approaches for some time to come, the effects of their growing familiarity with these approaches may be far-reaching.

## BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by  
Bernard Cohen

CRIMINAL LAW FOR THE LAYMAN. By *Fred E. Inbau* and *Marvin E. Aspen*. Philadelphia, Pa.: Chilton Book Co., 1970. Pp. 190. Cloth cover, \$5.95; paperback, \$3.95.

Since one of the authors is the Journal's Editor-in-Chief, the preface to this book is reproduced in lieu of a customary review:

"Although the average citizen has always been curious about criminal law and its administration, his principal source of information has been generally inadequate, and frequently distorted—the offerings of the movies, television, novels and other media. In the past, the consequences of this limitation were not disturbing to, or even recognized by, the ordinary viewer or reader. The general public welfare and safety were, themselves, little affected. But events of the past decade or so have made it imperative that this limitation be lifted, and that accurate information be made available.

"Today's citizen is very much concerned about

crime and the law governing criminal conduct. He wants to know more about the legal controls against crime and about legal safeguards for those accused of crime. His interest is based on more than civic concern alone—the not unreasonable fear that he, or members of his family, or his close friends, may someday become involved in the processes of the criminal law, as witnesses, suspects, or even victims.

"Another basis for citizen interest in criminal law is the possibility of a call for jury service in a criminal case. In that event, a reasonable acquaintance with the fundamentals of criminal law and its administration will render that civic duty the more interesting, and the more effective.

"This book was prepared to satisfy the need of the layman and the student for easily understood facts about criminal law and its application on all levels—on the street, in the police station, in the trial courts, in the appellate courts. We trust and believe it measures up that objective."